

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2021

INVESTIGATING LOST LANDSCAPES



The Field Detectives in action

STEADY AS SHE GOES

My father in law 'Ted Hooton' used to call on a phrase he had adopted during his Royal Navy years, which helped him navigate difficult times.

As we head into 2022, leaving behind another of those troublesome Covid years, there is much to look forward to. Yes, the uncertainties sadly remain, but they are heavily outweighed by the energy, determination, and resilience we all share towards making this new year the best it can possibly be. As Ted always used to say, 'steady as she goes'.

2021 was another great year both on and off the field. Russell and the team at Samworth Farms very kindly provided us with permission to resume the Owthorpe, Langar and Cropwell Butler historic landscape studies. They also presented us with a new farm trackway challenge; to locate and remove any metal objects that could cause farm machinery tyres to be punctured. I am pleased to say that we carried out that challenge successfully!

Jim and Janet Craig invited us back to resume the Canal Farm, Harby investigation, and we were also involved in two RAF commemoration day events at Eaton, Leicestershire and at Oving Buckinghamshire. Thanks to Brian Wells, we were able to resume our Langar airfield investigation and the search for the 1487 army campsite of Henry VII at Bunny. Derek Harwood kindly gave us permission to extend our Langar historic landscape study, which included an investigation into the airfield sick quarters. James Barlow generously offered to help us extend our Owthorpe to Cotgrave ancient trackway study.

Off the field, we continue to work in collaboration with our friends and research colleagues Justin Russell (archaeologist), Jonathan Ferguson (Royal Armouries Museum), Glyn Hughes and Kevin Winter (National Civil War Museum) on our lead shot and musket ball study. Who would have thought that lead would take centre stage as our flagship historic landscape study!

We are also involved in a Night Hawking focus group looking into the unlawful activities of a selfish minority who put financial gain before the pursuit of selfless research and collaboration.

As we enter our 22nd year, a testament to the relationships we have built up with landowners and our heritage sector colleagues can be evidenced by the longevity of the landscape studies that we continue to investigate to this day. Built on the foundation of trust, we are proud to be worthy of the continued friendship of so many wonderful people.

We have so much to look forward to, but getting back to some kind of normal will take some time, so, as Ted wisely used to regularly remind us, 'steady as she goes'.

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**CELEBRATING 22
YEARS OF TIME TRAVEL
1999-2021**





Richard Pincott of The Field Detectives reads the poem, 'Showpiece - Lancaster', by Walt Scott



Cadets of 1279 (Melton Mowbray) sqn ATC stand at attention alongside the Barnstone Royal British Legion

“It was a marvellous day and a huge credit to you, Catherine and the Field Detectives”

RAY HANNAN’S CREW OF 1942

EATON, LEIC, SATURDAY 7TH AUGUST 2021

BOK’S CREW OF 1942

OVING BUCKS, SUNDAY 15TH AUGUST 2021

2021 proved to be a landmark year for us, as it brought to a close our involvement in two RAF investigations. We are immensely proud of our role in helping the families of lost ones from so many years ago to finally be able to come together and say their goodbyes. It was also a celebration of collaboration, the building of new friendships and harvesting a collective spirit of hope that truly honours the memories of both Bok’s and Ray’s crews of 1942. We were a very small part of a much bigger collective of people who gave absolutely everything they had in pursuit of making these two days happen. It is heart warming to know that there are so many wonderful people in the world.

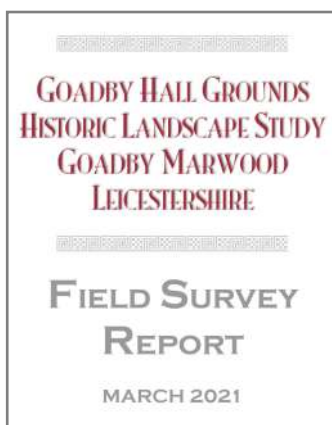


Oving, Buckinghamshire - The image that says it all
The morning after the commemoration day, the crews families united

GOADBY MARWOOD HISTORIC LANDSCAPE STUDY COMPLETION

LEICESTERSHIRE

It would appear with a few notable exceptions, the artefacts found during our visits to the Goadby Marwood Hall grounds were not casual losses or parts of secret hoards, nor did they arrive in the form of ancient night-soil to fertilize the land. They originated from the wealth of material being either lost, dropped, or possibly deliberately deposited in the watercourse that formed the basis of the current lakes and ponds, hidden from view or detection for nearly 2000 years.

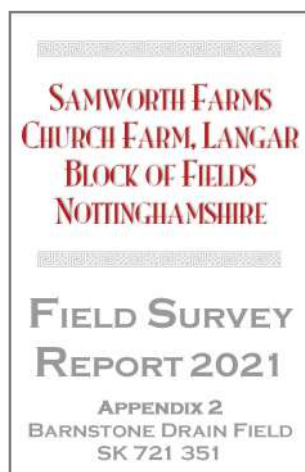


“The present survey with every find carefully recorded is a valuable addition to our knowledge”

Peter Liddle, Retired Museum curator and archaeologist.

CHURCH FARM BLOCK OF FIELDS RETURN

LANGAR, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



The 2021 report presents our findings

“The survey would have to be conducted swiftly and with great attention to crop care”

Back in 2018, the Field Detectives produced an interim report detailing their findings from a narrow window survey of the Barnstone Drain and Langar Hill fields. It was a brief but informative introduction to an historic landscape story that clearly had much more to say.

An intriguing part of that story features a uniquely shaped lead projectile that we have named the Langar Lead Bullet. Our research colleague, Justin Russell, wrote a piece on these interesting lead balls for the interim report, providing a foundation of knowledge that we will build upon as more information materialises.

On Friday, 3rd September 2021, Samworth Farms kindly entrusted the opportunity to extend the 2018 Barnstone Drain field survey. The surface conditions were perfect, drilled for grass, rolled flat, and the weather promised good days ahead. The survey would allow us to re-focus on the search for evidence to support a Romano-British trackway running from the Goadby Marwood ironstone industrial site to the Margidunum settlement near Bingham, on the Fosse Way.

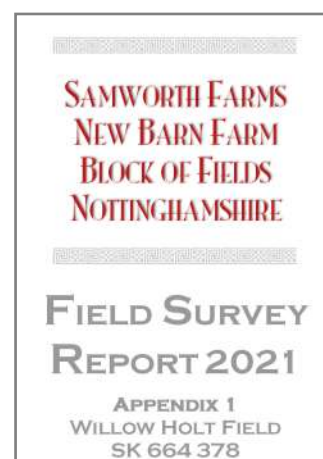
It would also allow us to examine the medieval landscape to see if there are any remaining artefacts that could be associated with the nearby St Ethelburga pilgrimage site and to learn more about the former Langar Hall grounds. The challenge ahead of us was to complete the survey before the grass grew too long. Our prime objective was to minimise any damage to the new crop. The survey would have to be conducted swiftly with great attention to crop care.

NEW BARN FARM BLOCK OF FIELDS INVESTIGATION

CROPWELL BUTLER, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

What we certainly did not expect to find during the survey was the Radcliffe-on-Trent/Cropwell Butler parish boundary step over construction. Its position in the landscape adjacent to where a Roman coin and Brooch were found makes this a feature that warrants further off the field investigation.

If that was a surprise, then the seven lead bullets and their apparent association with the late 19th-century rifle range at Radcliffe-on-Trent came right out of the blue. One minute we were focusing on the line of an ancient trackway, and then, within two days of starting the survey, we are travelling forwards in time to the late 19th century. If that wasn't enough to keep us occupied both on and off the field, the plentiful supply of items that arrived onto the field courtesy of the Grantham Canal night soil presented us with another avenue of research.



The Field Detectives

Historic Landscape Studies

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

The Field Detectives seek opportunities to survey fields that can tell us more about how our historic landscapes evolved - By sharing the stories that we uncover from our field surveys, we help to inform a better understanding of how our historic landscapes evolved over the centuries.

Share the Learning and record the information for current and future historical research

On completion of the field survey activities, a field survey report is produced that precisely records all of the associated survey finds (coins, artefacts, pottery etc.).

Once the field survey reports have been processed, the artefacts are curated as a landowner held Historic Landscape Study Collection where they are safeguarded for further research and study. With landowner approval, a community presentation/display can then be arranged where the information is shared and an opportunity is provided for the local community to get involved in future research activities.

By submitting the completed field survey reports as an exact finds location record, and by working closely with our heritage sector colleagues, we are establishing a growing archive of landscape focused historic studies. These context-recorded studies, are held in trust by the respective landowners who act as heritage custodians, which in turn, safeguards a unique set of rich historical landscape investigations for further study and learning.

Every field
has a story to tell...

PDF copies of our reports and posters can be sent out electronically

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Landscape Detective



Catherine Pincott-Allen
Family Historian, Author &
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Sean Gallagher
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Landscape Detective



Steve Wells
Finds Photographer, Treasurer &
Historic Landscape Detective



Dr Alan Stevens
Passed Away 10.04.19
memoratus in aeternum



Aileen Ball
Historic Landscape
Detective



Sophie Chell
Historic Landscape
Detective



Mel Steadman
Historic Landscape
Detective



Peter Ball
Historic Landscape
Detective



Brian Lovett
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Jill Barlow
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